

REMARKS

Applicants hereby amend the title of the application and the priority information in the specification of this continuation application. No new matter has been added thereby.

In addition, Applicants hereby cancel claims 1-122, without prejudice. Applicants request that this amendment be entered prior to counting the claims in this continuation application but after a filing date has been assigned to this continuation application. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 123-156 are currently pending and presented for examination.

Support for claims 123-156 can be found throughout the specification of this continuation application, and at least at pages 23-38 and 55-63.

Support for claims 123-156 also is provided through incorporation by reference of the U.S. Patent Application entitled "Stabilization Sling for Use in Minimally Invasive Pelvic Surgery" (now U.S. Pat. No. 6,042,534) as provided throughout the specification of this continuation application, and at least page 23, lines 12-17 and 26-29; page 35, lines 12-16; page 36, lines 1-8; page 37, line 28 through page 38, line 2; page 55, lines 10-15; and page 59, lines 15-20.

Support for claims 123-156 also is provided through incorporation by reference of the U.S. Patent Application entitled "Method and Apparatus For Minimally Invasive Pelvic Surgery" (now U.S. Pat. No. 6,099,547) as provided throughout the specification of U.S. Pat. No. 6,042,534 (referred to above), and at least column 14, lines 33-50, column 15, line 58 through column 16, line 11, and column 16, lines 44-53 of U.S. Pat. No. 6,099,547.

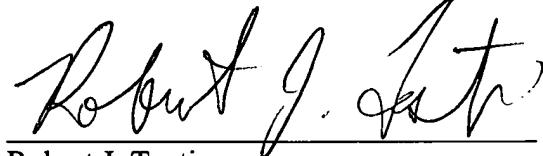
Accordingly, no new matter is added by the introduction of new claims 123-156. The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative by telephone at the number listed below in the event the Examiner requires that Applicants amend the specification of this continuation application to include the material incorporated by reference in accordance with MPEP § 608.01(p)(I)(A)(2).

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants request approval and entry of these amendments and allowance of claims 123-156 in due course. Applicants believe that no fees are necessitated by

this Preliminary Amendment. However, in the event that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 20-0531.

Respectfully submitted,



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